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Volume 88

Article 21

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1-1-2001

# Xi Sigma Pi

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## Recommended Citation

Haselhoff, Susanne (2001) "Xi Sigma Pi," *Ames Forester*: Vol. 88 , Article 21.  
Available at: <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester/vol88/iss1/21>

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# Xi Sigma Pi

By Susanne Haselhoff

Senior in Forest Ecosystem Management

The Department of Forestry at Iowa State University provides students with countless opportunities, acknowledgements, and awards. The opportunity to gain membership into the national forestry honor society Xi Sigma Pi, is one such benefit.

Xi Sigma Pi is the national forestry honor society founded on November 24, 1908 at the University of Washington. Iowa State University followed the University of Washington's lead by founding the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi in 1965.

Since 1965, students in the top 25% of their forestry class are eligible for membership in this honor society. Initiation is held each spring semester and traditionally students are required to complete a service project and compile ten signatures on their "trees". The "trees" are frequently made out of white oak and worn around the students' necks until they have garnered the appropriate number of signatures from fellow members.

Xi Sigma Pi members are expected to uphold three main objectives: to secure and maintain a high standard of scholarship in forestry education, to improve the forestry profession, and to promote a feeling of team spirit among all those engaged in forestry activities.

Throughout the year, the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi presents two different awards to excellent students in the department. The first award is the G.B. MacDonald Memorial Senior Leadership Award in recognition of a senior that is continuing their educational endeavors. The second award is the Keith Bauer Memorial Book Award. This award is presented to an outstanding sophomore in the forestry department. There is also a scholarship, the Xi Sigma Pi Regional Scholarship, which students can compete for every year.



*Spring 2001 Initiates (L-R): Adam Luhman, Ilona Peszlen, Josh Wall, Karen Duey, Ryan Elliot, Aaron Kjeld.*